

# Fish Passage: Maximizing investments



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



Washington State  
Association of Counties



# What is a fish barrier?



Excessive Water  
Surface Drop



High Velocity





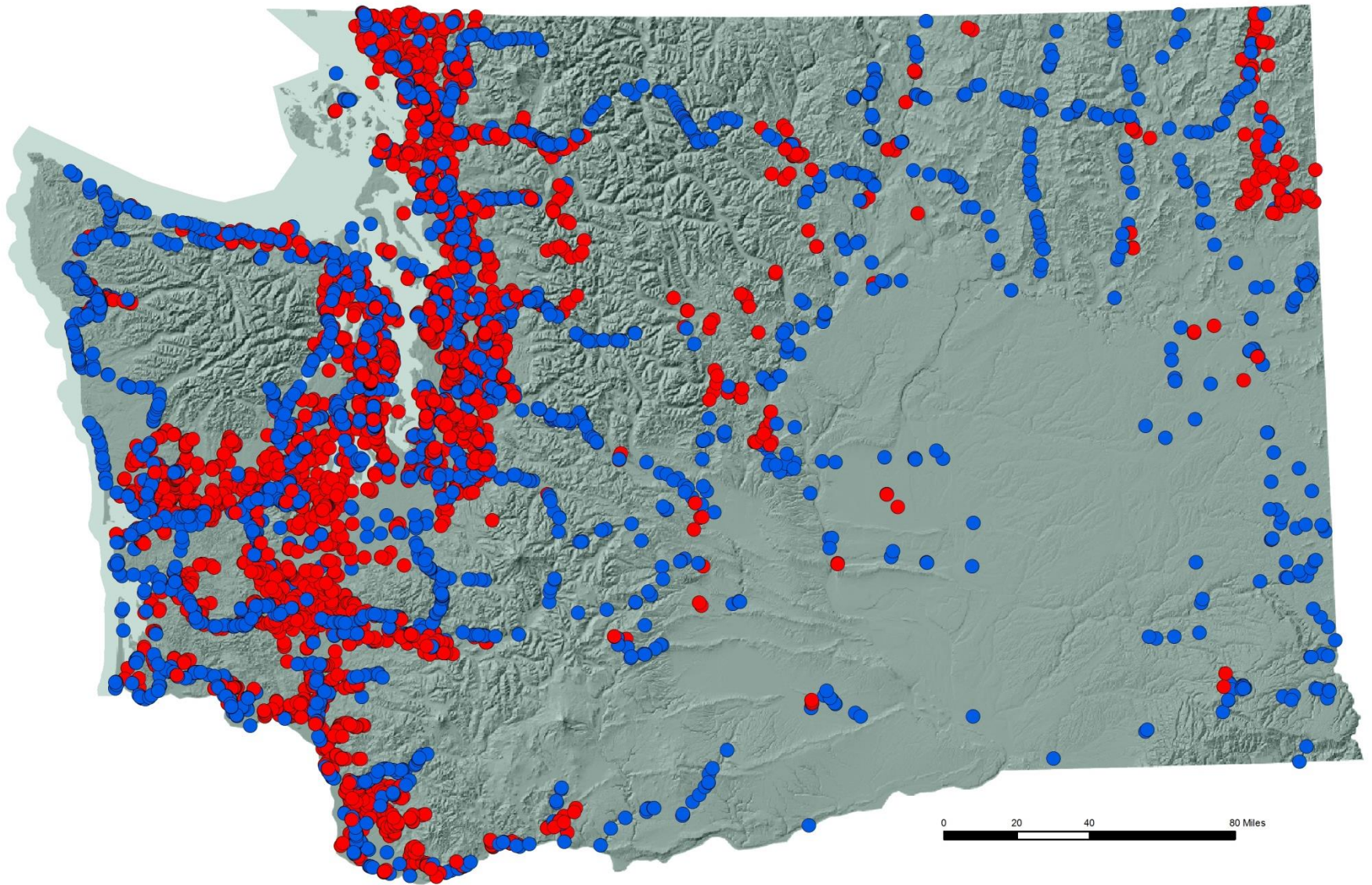


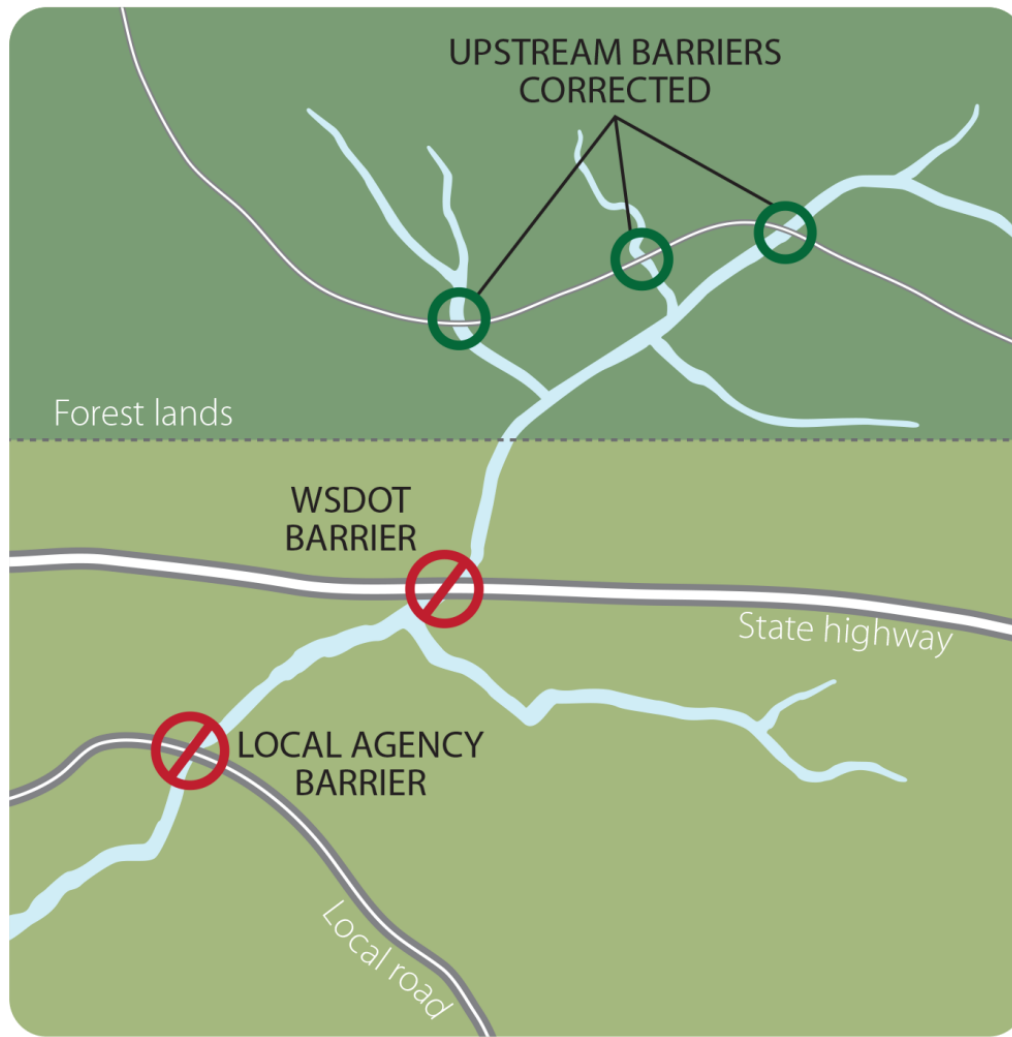
Fish passage is needed to maintain and preserve the road system





# How big is the problem?





# Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization Budget Provisos

- ESSB 5024 provides \$200,000 from the cities' and \$95,000 from the counties' fuel tax distributions to WDFW to inventory, prioritize, and study fish passage barriers associated with city streets and county roads.
- Results to be submitted by June 30, 2015.

# County Results and Efforts

- Through the proviso, counties are partnering with WDFW to prioritize fish passage barriers.
- Counties have 2,975 barriers statewide and of those 2,264 in the Case Area.
- Identifying county barriers upstream and downstream of WSDOT barriers.
- More inventory is needed.

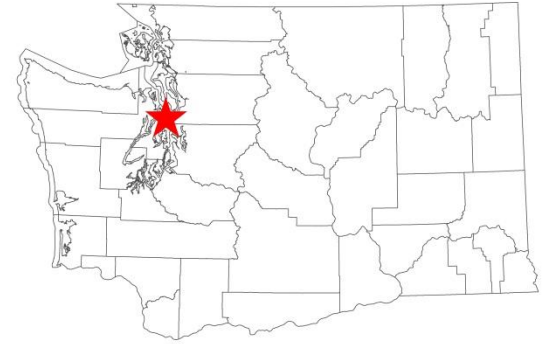
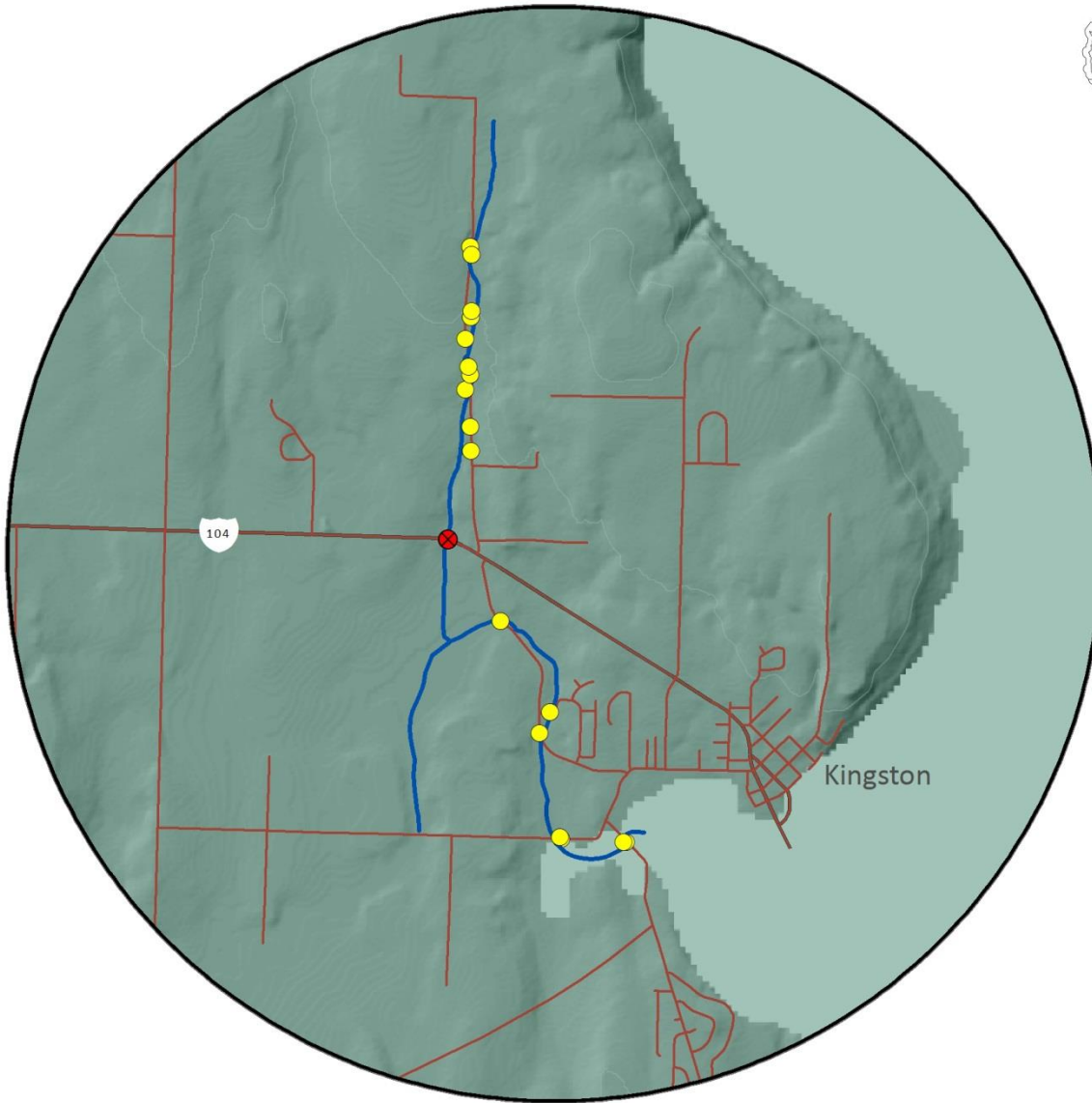


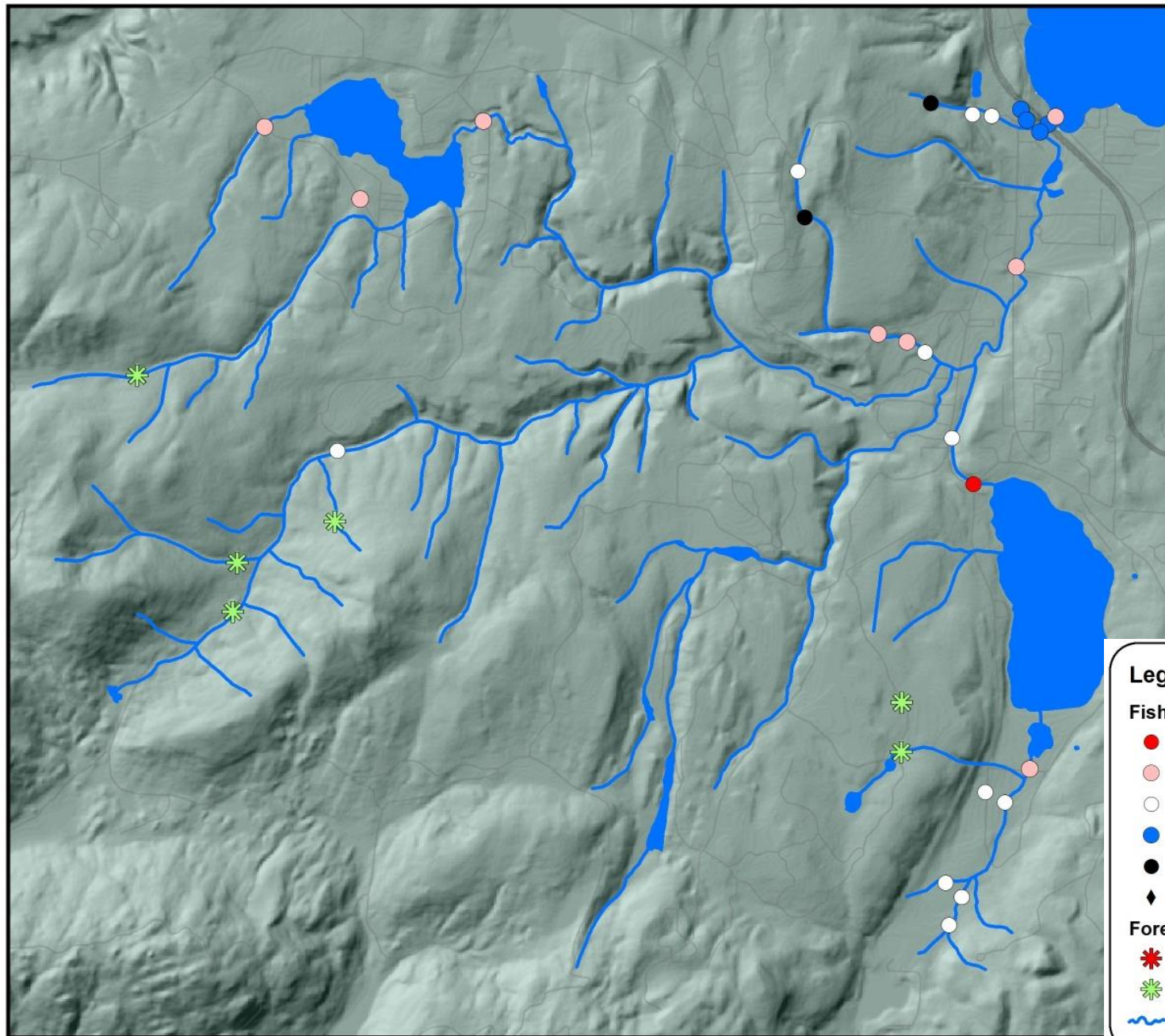
# City Results and Efforts

- Through the proviso, cities are partnering with WDFW to prioritize fish passage barriers.
- Cities have 931 barriers statewide, 783 of those in the Case Area.
- As prioritization process continues, cities working to develop a process with WDFW, WSDOT, Counties, and others.









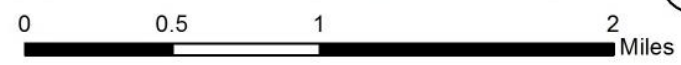
**Legend**

**Fish Passage Barriers by Ownership**

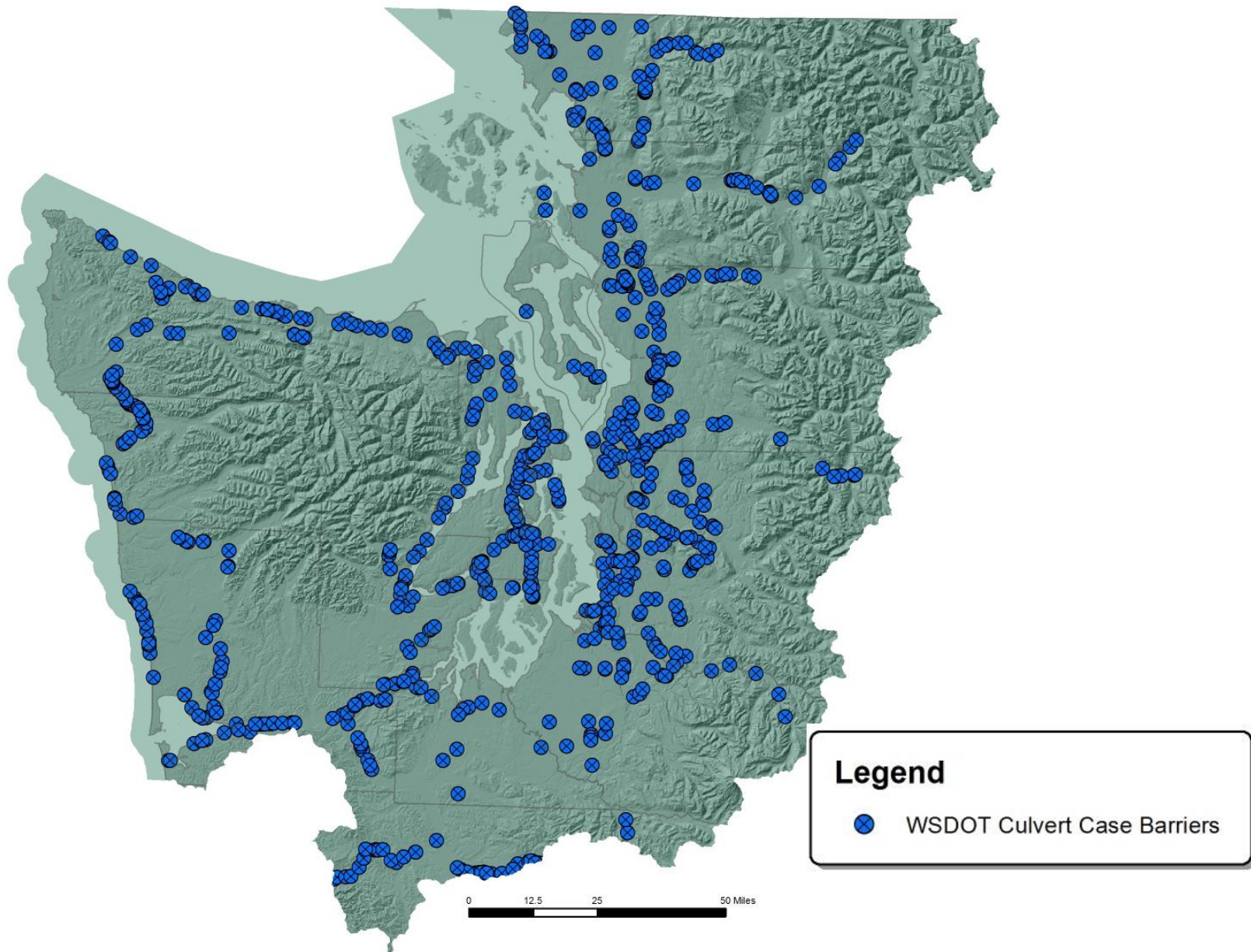
- City
- County
- Private
- State
- Other
- Natural Barrier

**Forest Fish Passage Site**

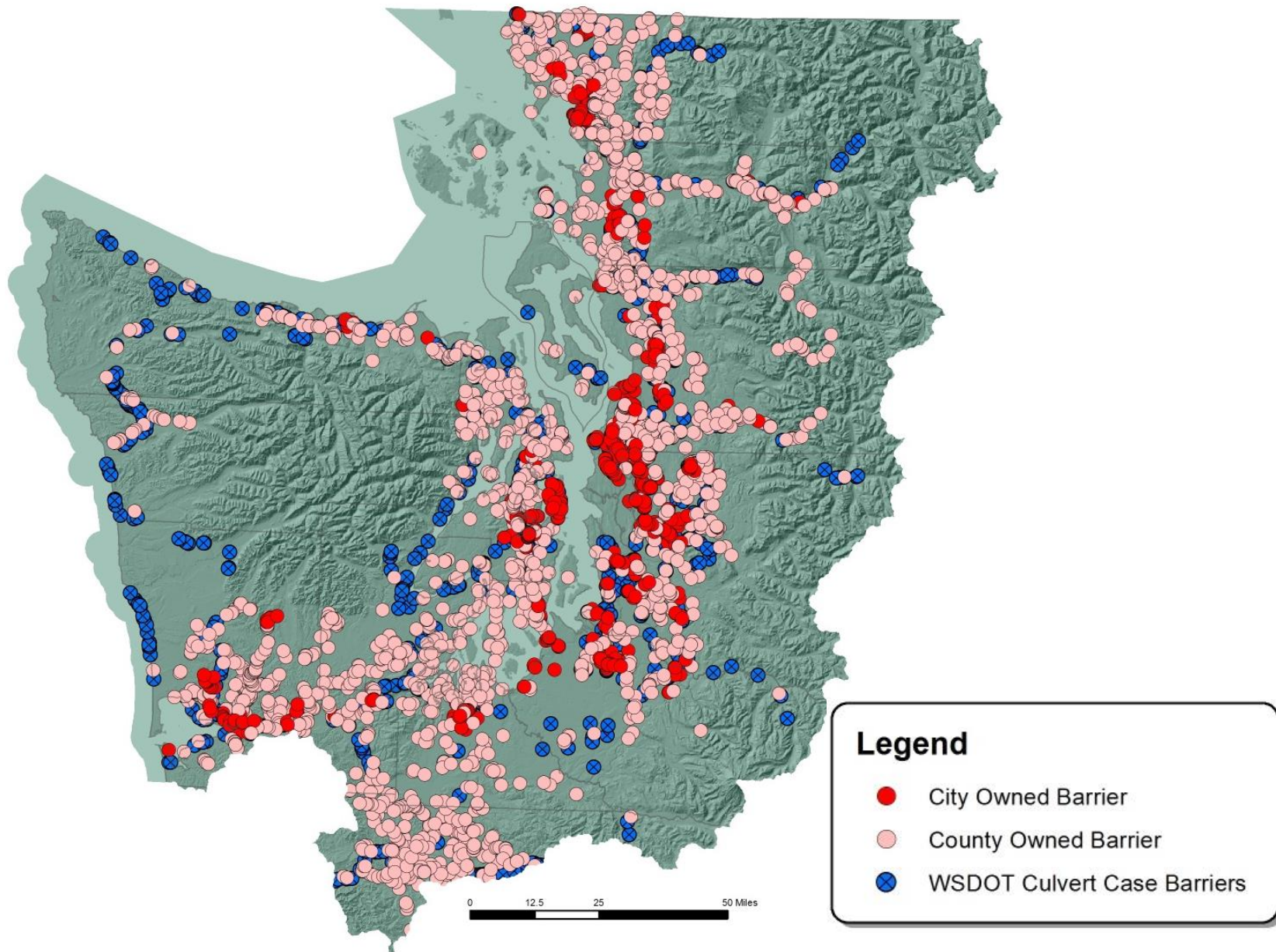
- Barrier
- Passable
- Stream











# Development of a Strategy

- Local Gov. working with WDFW to conduct inventory to prioritize barriers
  - Provide the ability to prioritize which barrier removals would provide the greatest benefits for fish
- Reviewing WSDOT barriers and identifying adjacent barriers where a coordinated effort is needed
- WDFW, Local Governments, WFPA, WSDOT, Governors Salmon Recovery Office exploring a coordinated approach

# Conceptual approach

- *Watershed Approach*: Can we develop a means to coordinate investments by prioritizing work up and down the streams that could have the largest impact on fish recovery?
- How do we achieve the largest gain on the investments being made by WSDOT, Private Industry, and Local Governments?
- *Ensuring biggest bang for the buck for private and public investments*: How do we get there?



# Benefits of a stream system (Watershed) Approach

- Coordination is needed to have substantial benefits to recover salmon populations
  - Steelhead – 2 yrs in freshwater
- Provides project efficiencies
  - Streamline permitting
  - Bundle projects – economy of scale
- WSDOT barriers with adjacent non-state barriers

# Investing in fish passage



- Reduces maintenance costs
- Increases public safety
- Increase fish habitat = increase fish populations = fishing opportunity
- Helps the local community

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